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SUBJECT: EMBASSY EINSK WEEKLY POL/ECON REPORT - NOVEMBER 21, 2006

1. The following are brief items of interest compiled by Embassy Minsk.

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Interna4ional Relations
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12. Foreign Military Experts Confirm Belarus# Compliance

On Fovember 18, the Be,arusIan dYVQKQQminist2y re`orte` that three grou`s of foreign milit!ry ehpererts had confirme\$ the coquntry's compliance with international commitments inQ conventional arms control and military aativities. The experts completed their ijspections of -ilitary units in Belarus under the Cmventional Armed Fgrces in Europe (CFE) Treaty and found conformity between the act5al quantities of weaponry and equipment subject to limitation under the Treaty and the declar%d Auantities.

13. Qelarus Stall 67th in UN Human Development Ranking

On November 9, the UN Development Program's released its 2006 Human Development Report. According to this report, Belarus continues to rank 67th out of the 177 nations in living standards and of the CIS countries, only Russia fares better. The report lists the Baltic States among the countries with high human development levels, with Estonia placed 40th, Lithuania 41st and Latvia 45th. Norway caps the report and Niger falls last.

Civil Society

14. NGO Partnership Leader Out of Prison

On November 17, authorities released independent election monitor Nikolai Astreyko from a prison in the northeastern city of Shklov and permitted him to serve the remainder of his two-year sentence in "halfway," or restricted freedom. On August 4, a Minsk court convicted Astreyko, Timofey Dranchuk, Aleksandr Shalayko, and Enira Bronitskaya for running an unregistered organization. Authorities released Shalayko and Bronitskaya on August 21 after serving six-month sentences with time served. Dranchuk remains in a Minsk prison on a one-year sentence.

15. Dashkevich's Lawyer Appeals to Review His Sentence

On November 10, Aleksandr Galiyev, lawyer for imprisoned Dmitry (Dmitry) Dashkevich, lodged an appeal with the Minsk City Court